

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
March 24, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Laurie Schlegel
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Bryan D. Vincent, director
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

Kalan Jenkins, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 274 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 274, which expands the information required to be provided in adoption awareness instruction for high school students.

Sarah Zagorski, Option Hope, 200 Robert E. Lee Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, (970) 817-1357, spoke in support of House Bill No. 274 and presented a handout, "HB 274 Adoption Education Expansion", which is in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Angie Thomas, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Robert E. Lee Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 274.

Teri Casso, St. Elizabeth Foundation, 8054 Summa Avenue Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-8888, spoke in support of House Bill No. 274.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 274 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 274 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 98 by Representative Magee

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 98, which provides relative to the accountability system for schools participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 98 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 98 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 261 by Representative Magee

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 261, which creates a French immersion school in the community of Pointe-au-Chien in Terrebonne Parish.

William McGrew, École Pointe-au-Chien, 1733 Calhoun Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 952-1064, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Michelle Matherne, Pointe-au-Chien Elementary School, 187 Matherne Street, Bourg, LA 70343, spoke in support of House Bill No. 261.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 261 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 261 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 346 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 346, which provides for a program and a fund for the purpose of providing scholarships for students in approved teacher preparation programs.

Clay Corley, DeSoto Parish Schools superintendent, no address given, (318) 947-2129, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 380-0927, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Ronnie Morris, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1455 St. Alban Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 235-8280, spoke in support of House Bill No. 346.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 346 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 346 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 416 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 416, which provides relative to screening of students for dyslexia and other impediments to learning.

Dr. Laura Cassidy, Dyslexic Resource Center/Louisiana Key Academy, 3164 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 405-9207, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 416.

Kayla Reggio, Dyslexia Resource Center, 3164 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) -405-9207, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 416.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 416 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 416 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 136 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 136, which requires dyslexia education as a component of teacher education programs.

Kayla Reggio, Dyslexia Resource Center, 3164 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) -405-9207, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 416.

Dr. Laura Cassidy, Dyslexic Resource Center/Louisiana Key Academy, 3164 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 405-9207, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 416.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 136 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 136 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 156 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 156, which provides relative to criminal history review with respect to teacher certification.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 859-4649, spoke in support of House Bill No. 156.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to House Bill No. 156 that:

1. Authorized BESE to request criminal background information on applicants for and recipients of credentials.
2. Authorized an annual fee increase up to 5% for fingerprinting or processing record checks.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 156 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 156 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Board of Regents, presented a PowerPoint relative to the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature. Dr. Reed provided a handout entitled "Report Regarding HCR 39 2021 Regular Legislative Session (Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force)", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Mincey and Dr. Reed discussed implementation of Act No. 666 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature relative to free speech on public university campuses.

Witness cares submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the records.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Tarver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: